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OCCUPATIONAL LICENSES

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Idaho State
Board of Psychological Examiners

Re: Dr. Wright's Experiences with the Attorney General

Dear Persons:

I'm writing this letter in anticipation of presenting it to you at your open meeting in Sun Valley. I will say a few things about it at the time, but I want to make sure that issues that have been on my mind for years get explained carefully. I want to assure you that I clearly understand your professional distance from me, especially when I'm an officer in the Idaho Psychological Association. I've waited until you resolved my latest issue before you so that these statements will have nothing to do with your decision regarding my situation. I want to share my experiences with the Attorney General as you may not have previously had the opportunity to hear from someone who completely supports your role in psychological practice in Idaho.

My problems began when my service extender billed a client for work with his daughter. He reported me to the Attorney General do, I believe, to some financial problems he was having. He never did pay. The complaint had some ten issues. One was that my extender had billed on her own stationary. Confronted, she complained that she needed the money faster, but said she wouldn't do it again. A few months later she billed on her own again and was fired as it was paid but came through my billing service anyway. One complaint was that we had taken an exorbitant amount of time to write the report, but we had evidence that we had waited for permission to get school information. That had come to us within two weeks of finishing the report, and was a dated fax.

The Attorney General sent me an offer to admit guilt on using my "Oakwright" name, which I had done for about twenty-eight years, admit guilt that I hadn't met the clients within the first three visits, and pay a fine of \$1,530. My attorney said that I should sign, get rid of the problem, and not risk losing my license. That was a terrible mistake. I would still appreciate clarification about how it was unethical using a registered dba, as my license was under my legal name and I regularly gave my legal name to Idaho courts when testifying.

I was so regular in meeting service extender clients that I was confident that I had met this mother and her daughter, but we instituted a form after this experience with a place to sign at such meetings. I confess that I also didn't feel that missing meeting one client was an ethical issue, at least not by intent. In my service on the IPA Ethics committee such matters could be dealt with without

involving the Attorney General unless they became flagrant. Frankly, I thought the board would not sign my acceptance of the Attorney General's deal, or would at least inquire of me about it. I would still like to help the Board develop a starter-kit for psychologists with Service Extender practices. I trained four unlicensed counselors well and they all have their licenses and have not been any ethical or other trouble.

From your acceptance of my guilt I only lost a few insurance companies after sending them copies of the complaint and resolution. Then things started to change in the industry. Business Psychology Associates used the letter of their rules to disqualify me even when I appealed: namely, that my license was limited in that I could no longer have service extenders. After thirty years of practice in Idaho I was enrolled by so many companies, none of this hurt me much. I was focused on doing a Medicaid Clinic in my winding down years, I retire this June, and Medicaid hasn't gotten into the issue. I present this part of my problem in that I think insurance companies are getting rid of psychologists any way they can.

Now for the corker, an investigator with the Vocational Licensing people had a dentist he knew in Coeur d'Alene look in the *Local Pages* and *Blackbook* phone books to see if I was still using the "Oakwright" name. I don't know why they chose to do this as the assistant Attorney General claimed privilege when my attorney tried to depose this investigator. This issue has cost the APA Insurance Trust \$25,000 for a good lawyer plus other expenses for me of air and motel costs getting to the hearing.

At the Attorney General's hearing my lawyer suggested that we stop our presentation with only one-third of our argument presented in order not to anger the hearing officer. The assistant Attorney General had only presented the two phone books. We had affidavits from the *Local Pages* book that they had copied my old ads as a courtesy and to gain my business. They admitted that they had no business relationship with me. The *Blackbook* affidavit admitted that they might have made a mistake as the order used the name of "Wright" and they had changed half of my ads. The *Verizon* book wasn't in evidence, but the ads had the correct name.

Four months later the hearing officer ruled that I had allowed third parties to make the errors but gave no recommendation as to punishment. Thankfully you ruled against his opinion. If I had been a younger psychologist this problem would have been devastating. I'm speaking for them in asking you to learn from my experience and spend more time investigating such matters. I know that's asking a lot, but I think it is important to psychology in Idaho.

Capt [Signature] 7-27-06